



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Warmingham Church of England Primary School	
Address	School Lane, Warmingham, Sandbach, CW11 3QN
How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?	
Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Good
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

School's vision
<p>At the heart of everything is a personalised approach to each individual as part of our Christian Community. The family ethos ensures that we feel valued, respected and can grow together. Our enthusiastic staff demonstrate care for the whole child with a centralised approach. Through God's guidance, we encourage all to Let their Light Shine.</p> <p>Let your Light Shine – Matthew 5:16</p>
Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeply rooted Christian vision and values inspire a shared understanding of the school as a family. The vision is the driving force that enables pupils and adults to flourish in a supportive and loving community. • Collective worship has a central place in the school community. Both adults and pupils talk of its importance for them. Pupils are keen to be actively involved in planning, monitoring and evaluating worship. • Religious education (RE) is led well. Pupils are engaged in and enthusiastic about their learning. However, there is less deep knowledge and understanding of the Diocesan syllabus for new staff. • Pupils demonstrate care for each other and understand that in doing so it enables everyone to flourish. They are enthusiastic about the roles and responsibilities that they hold. However, opportunities to extend this to becoming courageous advocates for change in society are not yet fully established. • Many opportunities for reflection, questions and diverse rich experiences enable pupils at Warmingham to develop spiritually. However, there is less understanding of spirituality evident.



Areas for development

- Building on the understanding that pupils gain through the curriculum, develop their roles as courageous advocates. This will give them the ability to challenge social injustice at a local, national and global level.
- Promote and embed a shared definition and vocabulary of spirituality so that all can fluently explain and articulate its impact on themselves and others.
- Continue to embed the RE syllabus. This will add further rigour and will ensure that staff are confident in their teaching.



Inspection findings

The whole community of Warmingham School is passionate about living and breathing every element of its deeply embedded vision and values. Its highly committed headteacher, leaders and staff promote the vision and values at every opportunity. They are strongly supported by a strong partnership with local clergy. The highly valued local vicar shares the school's Christian vision and he is effective in demonstrating that Christianity is a living, relevant faith. The school's close partnerships with the vicar and church are beneficial and result in welcomed pastoral care and practical support. The vision and values are firmly rooted in the Bible and are passionately articulated by everyone. Governors ensure that the robust self-evaluation process ensures development in this important aspect of church school life. Staff and governors attend relevant church school training with the Diocese and local multi academy trust clusters. This further strengthens their understanding of an effective church school and allows them to benefit from sharing good practice.

The school is active in the community with pupils engaging in high profile local events such as the Warmingham Wakes. Recent school services include harvest, remembrance and Christmas. The pupils are able to 'let their light shine' through these well attended events. The ethos council and research group actively participate in promoting the school's Christian vision. They nominate their peers for demonstrating Christian values each week and regularly leading prayers. As a result of this, pupils are able to clearly articulate the school's vision. Their current research project is seeking how this can be improved even further.

The wellbeing of every member of the school community is a high priority. Leaders clearly understand the challenges to mental health and how to support their local community. This was seen during the pandemic when the school worked closely with families, providing educational and emotional support. Their vision of letting their light shine was clearly evident for parents and pupils during these difficult days. This support continues to be valued by parents as the school continues to support families wherever possible. The school works with the trust to support the welfare of staff and pupils and also to increase staff expertise in this area. Parents find staff very approachable and staff value being part of a supportive team.

Vision and values have driven decisions which shape the school's well constructed curriculum, ensuring that it meets the needs of pupils. Pupils demonstrate high expectations of themselves and their peers, resulting in a happy and supportive environment. Support and provision for those with additional learning or personal needs or vulnerabilities is strong. Any required interventions are quickly and effectively identified and addressed by highly skilled staff. Because of this, barriers to learning are removed and pupils feel confident to grow and flourish in their studies.

Pupils' awareness of diversity is enhanced through a variety of educational resources used in areas of the curriculum areas such as religious education (RE), history and art. This provides children with a clear understanding of the rich culture that exists beyond the school gates. The specific teaching about respect is very effective. This resulting positive ethos permeates the school through caring relationships and respectful attitudes. It ensures that pupils adopt a clear understanding of right and wrong and the impact of everyone's choices. Consequently, pupils unfailingly behave calmly, courteously and with dignity. Where there are misunderstandings or occasional fallings out, pupils, with the support of the staff, can work problems out together. As a consequence, relationships are strong, and restorative conversations, forgiveness and




understanding enable pupils to get along well. Pupils are able to articulate a clear sense of injustice that exists both nationally and globally. However, opportunities to extend this to become courageous advocates are not yet fully established.

Pupils value worship in their school and there are many opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually. Pupils of all ages are able to explain how the school prayer links to the school's vision. Classroom prayer, reflection areas and times of collective worship nurture pupils' understanding of the Christian faith. Older pupils participate in, planning, leading and evaluating worship times. Lighting a candle signifies to pupils that worship is a special time as well as a reminder to let their light shine. Attractive displays around the school buildings prompt reflection and deepen children's spirituality. Leaders have begun to develop an outdoor area in which pupils may explore prayer and quiet contemplation during break times. Whilst there are various opportunities for spiritual development, leaders are aware of the need to secure a clear and secure understanding spirituality for pupils as, currently, their ability to speak about it, is limited.

RE makes a sound contribution to the Christian character of the school. Staff follow the diocesan syllabus and the resources of Understanding Christianity. This ensures that pupils gain broad understanding and knowledge. Staff receive training to secure a good understanding of the diocesan curriculum. They use their skills and ideas to encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs and consider some big questions. Pupils are given the opportunity to analyse the lyrics to Christian songs and discuss their meaning. This makes a good contribution to pupils' spiritual development. RE provides ample opportunity for pupils to consider identity, diversity and difference, within a framework characterised by tolerance and mutual respect. A range of activities and open-ended questions invite pupils to consider the importance of belief and faith for others and for themselves. World faith days have a significant impact on pupils' learning. Because of this, pupils delight in learning about different faiths and understand why religion is important to people.



	The effectiveness of RE is		Good
	<p>The well-planned curriculum ensures that RE teaching is effective. The learning opportunities allow the children to reflect on big questions and explore Christianity and other world faiths.</p> <p>Children are supported to share ideas with confidence. School has effective processes for regularly monitoring teaching and learning in RE. Pupils, including those who are deemed disadvantaged, make good progress and flourish in their learning.</p>		
Information			
School	Warmingham Church of England Primary School	Inspection date	10 February 2023
URN	143872	VC/VA/Academy	Academy
Diocese/District	Chester	Pupils on roll	71
MAT/Federation	Rural Church Schools Academy Trust		
Headteacher	Kate Appleby		
Chair of Governors	Malcolm Gate		
Inspector	Anna Brooksbank	No.	974